

Memorandum

Subject: Diversion Effects on Fish - Draft Impacts and Issues Report

Summary

In February of this year an interagency/stakeholder Diversion Effects on Fish Team (DEFT) was formed to address the technical issues related to diversion impacts on fisheries for each of the CALFED alternatives. The primary issues to be address were:

- Which species, populations, and life stages are most sensitive to diversion effects under no action and alternatives 1, 2, and 3?
- What degree of benefit and impact will the common programs provide?
- What is the risk and chances of success of species recovery for each alternative?
- To what extent can diversion effects be offset by modifications to the alternatives or by operational changes?

DEFT has completed its assessment of the first three issues. The attached "Diversion Effects on Fish - *Issues and Impacts*," report summarizes the process, assumptions, modeling studies, information, professional judgement and the conclusions reached by the teams on these three issues. The American Fisheries Society is peer reviewing the report and will have its recommendations in August.

The fourth issue above is now being address using the following process.

Process

The expanded DEFT was expanded to include representatives from the following:

- DEFT species teams
- Interagency Fish Facilities Technical Team
- Water Quality Technical Team
- No Name Group
- USBR operations
- DWR operations
- DWR modeling
- CALFED staff

Their task is to optimize benefits and minimize impacts of each alternative. Since CALFED's primary strategy is a through Delta conveyance, with a contingency strategy being a dual system conveyance, DEFT will first concentrate its efforts on developing, from a fisheries point of view, a best through Delta alternative while considering water supply and water quality benefits. The alternative will not include actions that will

preclude the option of moving to a dual system if needed to meet CALFED objectives. Both physical and operational actions in the Delta and in the river systems upstream are being considered. As the alternative is being developed specific actions will be recommended for implementation in Stage 1 of the CALFED Program. Once the through Delta is complete the Team will address the dual system and its staging.

Schedule

Progress report to Policy on the through Delta alternative Aug
13-14
Report on peer review by AFS..... Sept 14-
15
Draft DEFT report on optimized alternatives to policy..... Sept
14-15